

State Representative Matt Pierce

District 61



Bills Advance to Increase Economic Opportunity, Help Small Businesses

During the 2003 session of the General Assembly, I worked for the enactment of late Governor Frank O'Bannon's "Energize Indiana" economic growth program. This long-term, strategic plan to diversify Indiana's economy stresses investing in people through education and recognizes the important role university research and development can play in creating jobs in new industries.

While many discussions about economic development seem to focus on attracting large, national companies with incentives, assisting home-grown small businesses to expand and prosper is the key to Indiana's economic recovery.

I am a co-sponsor of two Senate bills that build on the Energize Indiana program and would provide additional help to small technology businesses at a critical time in their development.

Senate Bill 47—Funding to Commercialize Emerging Technology

Creates the Emerging Technology Grant Fund to assist small sized technology businesses to compete nationally for federal research and development awards and provide matching grants. The goal of the fund is to accelerate commercialization of emerging technologies.

Senate Bill 211—Twenty-first Century Fund Grant Office

Requires the Twenty-first Century Research and Technology Fund board to establish and administer a grant office to work with federal agencies, state agencies, units of local government, colleges and universities, and private sector entities to develop and receive research and development grants.

Another key to boosting Indiana's economy is investing in people so they can meet their full potential. I support House Bill 1325 that recently passed the House and is now pending in the Senate.

House Bill 1325—State technology advancement and retention

This bill creates the state technology advancement and retention (STAR) account to advance technology and retain graduates in Indiana. The account would hold federal grants, donations, and any state appropriations for school to career programs, apprenticeships, internships and economic development programs.



Please visit my website, www.in.gov/H61, to learn more about legislation that is before the current session of the General Assembly.

Energize Indiana:

Expanding Job Opportunities for Hoosier Workers



Energize Indiana, which focuses on four industry sectors—the life sciences, advanced manufacturing, information technology and high-tech distribution—is designed to create jobs in various ways. But perhaps the most direct way is through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, which will use federal money provided by the Reed Act to undertake several activities that ultimately will put more Hoosiers to work.

At least 30,000 workers and unemployed Hoosiers will have their skills assessed and 1,800 job categories at Indiana companies will be profiled with the goal of matching up job seekers with the best possible position available. In addition, the department plans to hold more job fairs than usual, including some at post-secondary schools, to attract workers to the targeted sectors.

If you would like information about available employment and training services, contact the WorkOne Center:

450 Landmark Ave.

P.O. Box 3000

Bloomington, IN 47402-3000

(812) 331-6000

Fax: (812) 331-6010

The Center is open on Mondays from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
and Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Stay in touch with

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